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800 INDEPENDENCE AVE., WASHINGTON D.C., 20591

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Contact: Fraser Jones

Phone: 202-267-3883

FAA Selects Harris Corporation to Provide Critical Next-Generation Voice and Data Telecommunications Network

WASHINGTON – The U.S. Department of Transportation's Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) announced today that Harris Corporation of Melbourne, Florida has been awarded a contract to modernize, operate and manage the telecommunications infrastructure that air traffic controllers use to communicate with each other and with pilots in managing the nation's air traffic control system.

Under the FAA Telecommunications Infrastructure (FTI) contract, Harris will work with FAA to phase out older telecommunications systems and replace them with one provider responsible for operating and maintaining the network. FTI will provide a wide range of voice, data, and video telecommunications services that meet critical air traffic control requirements across thousands of geographic locations.

The contract calls for the replacement of FAA-owned multiplexing and switching networks, as well as telecommunications services currently leased from multiple providers. The performance-based contract consists of a five-year base with options that could extend the period of performance up to 15 years. The FAA anticipates contract value to grow beyond the initial evaluated cost of approximately \$1.7 billion to an estimated \$3.5 billion.

"FTI is a critical element of our overall plan to modernize the national airspace system," said FAA Administrator Jane F. Garvey. "The FAA and the Harris team are forming a long-term partnership ensure that the U.S. airspace remains the safest in the world."

The FAA's current telecommunications network consists of owned and leased systems nearing the end of their contract and service lives. The contract is expected to phase out these older systems during the first five to six years. The FTI network will primarily support the FAA, Department of Defense, and the United States Coast Guard. It will connect some 5,000 locations over 14,000 separate connections, and will replace more than 30,000 circuits.

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